



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

June 15th, 2011

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

As you know, the New York State Assembly led the fight to restore funds for New York City schools in this year's state budget. This was done with the hope that the additional funds would be used to keep programs open and teachers in classrooms. The projections in your Executive 2012 Financial Plan show an increase of \$205 million in revenues from State Categorical Grants since February. There appears, however, to be no restoration of these funds to classroom programs and teachers. Instead, between February and May, there was a reduction by \$207 million in city funds committed to the Department of Education. It would appear that, instead of using the additional state funds to restore classroom cuts, these state dollars were used to supplant city funds.

The Department of Education's initial estimates projected cutting 6000 teachers through a combination of layoffs and attrition. If implemented, these cuts will significantly reduce the quality of education in many of our schools. Some of the areas that will be hardest hit can be seen in the magnitude of teacher cuts you have projected in different subject areas and grade levels, including:

- 19% of career and technology teachers,
- 15% each of art, music and other performing arts, physical education, library and reading teachers,
- 9% of elementary and early childhood teachers, and
- 9% of social studies teachers.

We insist that all additional state dollars be committed to the classroom in the form of restored teachers and programs. The total cost reduction you are projecting as a result of eliminating 6000 teachers from the classroom is \$350 million. It would seem that almost 60% of these cuts could be restored by committing to use the \$205 million of state funds to classroom restorations.

The classroom is the key to our children's education. Children must be our priority for these state funds. Thank you for your consideration and review. We look forward to working with you on this very important issue.

Sincerely,
Catherine Nolan

The following Assemblymembers join me in signing this letter:

Assemblymember Peter J. Abbate
Assemblymember Jeffrion Aubry
Assemblymember Carmen E. Arroyo
Assemblymember Inez Barron
Assemblymember Michael R. Benedetto
Assemblymember William Boyland
Assemblymember Edward Braunstein
Assemblymember Alec Brook-Krasny
Assemblymember Karim Camara
Assemblymember Nelson Castro
Assemblymember Barbara Clark
Assemblymember William Colton
Assemblymember Vivian E. Cook
Assemblymember Marcos A. Crespo
Assemblymember Michael DenDekker
Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz
Assemblymember Herman D. Farrell Jr.
Assemblymember Vanessa L. Gibson
Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick
Assemblymember Richard Gottfried
Assemblymember Carl E. Heastie
Assemblymember Andrew Hevesi
Assemblymember Dov Hikind
Assemblymember Rhoda S. Jacobs
Assemblymember Hakeem Jeffries

Assemblymember Brian Kavanagh
Assemblymember Micah Kellner
Assemblymember Rory Lancman
Assemblymember Joseph Lentol
Assemblymember Guillermo Linares
Assemblymember Vito Lopez
Assemblymember Alan Maisel
Assemblymember Grace Meng
Assemblymember Michael Miller
Assemblymember Joan L. Millman
Assemblymember Francisco Moya
Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell
Assemblymember Felix Ortiz
Assemblymember N. Nick Perry
Assemblymember Jose Rivera
Assemblymember Naomi Rivera
Assemblymember Peter Rivera
Assemblymember Robert J. Rodriguez
Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal
Assemblymember William Scarborough
Assemblymember Aravella Simotas
Assemblymember Matthew Titone
Assemblymember Michele Titus
Assemblymember Helene Weinstein
Assemblymember David Weprin
Assemblymember Keith Wright